

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /059 W

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R 260837Z OCT 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6659

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PEKING NEWSPAPERS SIGNAL POSSIBLE SHIFTS IN LINE

1. AMONG A SPATE OF ARTICLES THE PAST FEW DAYS ENUMERATING THE "CRIMES" OF THE "GANG OF FOUR", TWO OR THREE POINT TENTATIVELY TOWARD SHIFTS FROM PREVAILING STANDS IN SEVERAL AREAS RESULTING FROM THE RECENT PURGE.

2. IN THE OCT. 24 PEOPLE'S DAILY, AN ARTICLE BY THE PRODUCTION TEAM OF THE FILM "THE TRAILBLAZERS" (CHUANG YEH) TAKES THE FOUR RADICALS (READ CHIANG CHING) TO TASK FOR CRITICIZING THEIR FILM WHEN IT WAS FIRST RELEASED TWO YEARS AGO. GIVEN MADAME MAO'S PREVIOUS IRON GRIP ON ALL ASPECTS OF CULTURAL POLICY, THIS REPUDIATION OF HER ACTIONS COULD HERALD A NEW, LESS RESTRICTIVE POLICY IN THE PRC TOWARD THE ARTS.

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3. IN THE SAME ISSUE, THE HSINCHOU COUNTY PARTY

COMMITTEE OF HUPEH PROVINCE ATTACKS THE RADICALS FOR INTERFERING WITH THE PPLICATION OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS ON "LEARNING FROM TACHAI", AND SPECIFICALLY WITH THE PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION. MECHANIZATION WAS A CORNERSTONE OF LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL TACHAI CONFERENCE, BUT THE THEME WAS MUTED ONCE THE ANTI-TENG CRITICISM CAMPAING GOT STARTED TWO MONTHS LATER.

4. A THIRD ARTICLE, THIS ONE IN THE OCT 24 JUANG-MING DAILY, HINTS AT A FURTHER REHABILITATION OF CADRES PURGED DURING CULTURAL REVOLUTION. AUTHORED BY SHU HSIN ("RELAXING HEART" -- PRESUMABLY A PSEUDONYM), THE ARTICLE FIRST DESCRIBES POISON-PEN ATTACKS ON LU HSUN BY CHANG CHUN-CHIAO UNDER THE PEN NAME "TI KE" IN THE 1930'S, THEN GOES ON TO CHARGE THAT THE RADICALS HAVE EMPLOYED THE SAME TACTICS IN RECENT YEARS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY "INJURED A LARGE NUMBER OF PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS", USING RUMORS AND THREATS, IN ORDER TO "CREATE POSITIONS FOR THEMSELVES". THIS SEEMS AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF TACTICS EMPLOYED BY CHIANG CHING, CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, ET AL, BOTH DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND MORE RECENTLY IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING. WE HAVE NOTICED SIMILAR LANGUAGE IN AN OCT. 25 SHANGHAI CITY SERVICE ARTICLE BY LI FEN, "A TOUCHSTONE THAT DISTINGUISHES SHAM MARXISM FROM GENUINE MARXISM". REPUDIATION OF THEIR ACTIONS COULD WELL BE ONE STEP IN THE REHABILITATION OF MORE OF THOSE CULTURAL REVOLUTION VICTIMS NOT ALREADY RESTORED TO THEIR FORMER JOBS BY TENG HSIAO-PING.

GATES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING02201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760399-0391
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761017/aaaaaomo.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <24 MAY 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEKING NEWSPAPERS SIGNAL POSSIBLE SHIFTS IN LINE
TAGS: PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006